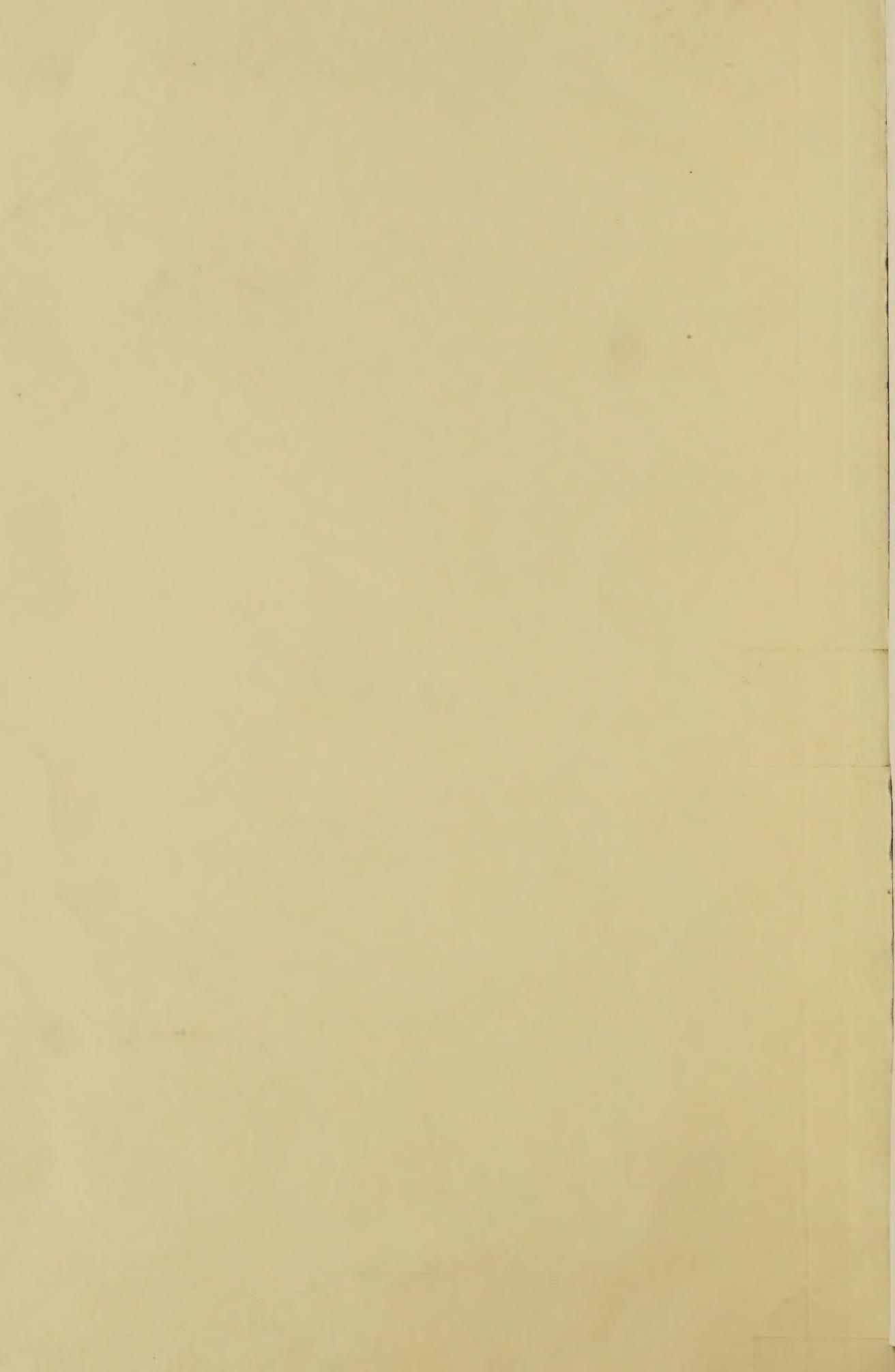


## **Historic, Archive Document**

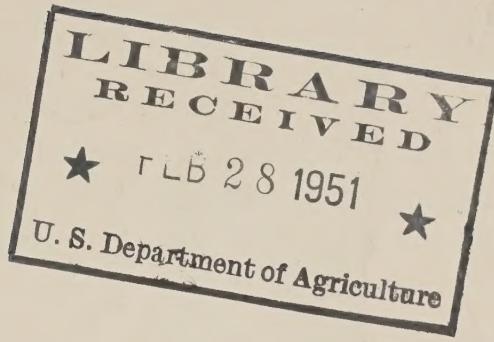
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FROM THE MIRACLE  
DAHLIA GARDEN OF  
CURTIS REDFERN

314 East Carrillo Street  
Santa Barbara, California

2nd Year Mendelian Seedlings  
all have closed centers

Greetings to flower growers everywhere:

**GREGOR MENDEL**, known as the Father of Heredity, was born in Austria in 1822, and died in 1884. Much of his life was spent as a monk in the little town of Brunn. He was very much interested in Science, including Botany and Biology, and carried on experiments with common garden peas by in-breeding or self-pollination. He kept copious records of his experiments, and later covered the subject in a small pamphlet read before his local scientific society. This was filed in its archives, and only brought to light about 1900 by several other scientists, and in a few years, it had been tested and given to the world as the Mendelian Law. It is doubtful if Mendel knew of the existence of chromosomes and hormones which were discovered later.

For years I had tried to self-pollenize dahlias using a camel's hair brush, without success. In the summer of 1947, handicapped by a paralyzed left hand, I found by using my thumb and finger of my right hand, I could massage the pollen in the center of dahlias and with a circular motion engage the sticky threadlike pistils which successfully completed the breeding. There are at least 26 species of dahlias, (composite flowers) which are native of Mexico. Each petal or floret is a complete flower in itself, with a sticky threadlike pistil. When the pollen is massaged around the center of the open flower, it engages the sticky pistils and in-breeding is completed and the seed pods soon develop. This is also true with gladiolus, irises and other flowers. With the latter two flowers, I collect the pollen between my finger and thumb, and press it into the pistils; in a few days seed pods begin to develop. The pistil on irises is a sticky sort of lip.

After September first, the garden becomes crowded with bees and insects, and the wind too probably carries more pollen and thus cross-pollination takes place. In this way, thousands of pods of the best American and European dahlias are produced. Other growers offer these seeds from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per hundred. This season I offer this seed at \$4.00 per hundred or 300 seeds for \$10.00.

The Mendelian seed which I produce from the best American and European varieties by hand, I offer at \$10.00 per hundred seeds. These seeds are divided into four named packets (my own selection) of 25 seeds each. As most dahlia society members know, several of my introductions of the past 25 years appeared on rolls of honor and also on the standard classification list of the American and Central States Dahlia Societies. These varieties were the Angelo Rossi, Bagdad, Barbara Redfern, El Rubio, Mandalay, and Polaris.

In my catalogue are the photographic reproductions of three of the finest dahlias I have ever offered; the Curtis Redfern, Franciscan, and El Sueno.

All are large flowered, each measuring at least twelve inches in diameter. I am quite sure each of these new varieties is destined to find an important place on future classification standards of the two societies.



**Curtis Redfern**—Produced by Father Giles Valcovitch, Old Mission, Santa Barbara. It is a very large, Informal Decorative, at least twelve inches in diameter, the color a deep vivid red with tints of purple and the center surrounded by incurved florets of deep lavender; very tall growing. The price is \$15.00 per root. April first delivery.

**Franciscan**—a deep red Informal Decorative which has been grown to more than 13 inches in diameter by Mr. Robert Simon of Kirkwood, Missouri. Franciscan is probably a seedling of El Rubio. It is a tall growing bush. The price is \$15.00 per root. April first delivery.



**El Sueno**—(pronounced El soo-en-yoh). A Spanish word meaning "the dream." An Informal Decorative, deep orchid pink in color. At least twelve inches in diameter. This is probably a seedling of Mr. Ballay's famous Azura. Height above five feet. Price \$15.00 per root April first delivery.



The four flowers shown above are seedlings of the same variety. You will note all have tightly closed centers. This is a striking example of heredity. A small variety, by inbreeding, will produce large seedlings (in this instance Moeder Ballago). A large variety, such as Sancy, will produce small seedlings like the cactus varieties on the cover. (Photo by Mr. Robert Simon, Kirkwood, Missouri).

**Susan Gibson**—This Mendelian seedling of Evelyn Chandler because of insufficient stock will not be introduced this year. It is a very brilliant incurved yellow semi-cactus dahlia, similar in color to my own well known Mandalay. The stock of these three dahlias is very limited as I

had "gopher trouble" and lost a great many clumps of dahlias this year. Father Quentin, one of the Franciscan fathers at the Old Mission, photographed the cover page of this catalog and the Curtis Redfern, Franciscan and El Sueño blooms.

**An important note:** Under the Mendelian law of segregation and reassortment, 25 per cent of the seedlings will be outstanding, 25 per cent will be recessive, and 50 per cent normal. In 1950, for the first time I produced flowers from gladiolus seed. Among the varieties I grew were Evangeline, Greta Garbo, Pickardy, Shirley Temple, Strawberry Peach and four of Mr. Carl Salbach's famous patented glads: California, Grand Opera, and Sir Gallahad. I hope I have succeeded in causing you to decide hereafter to produce your own Mendelian seeds. I produced about a thousand gladiolus bulblets this year which I am not anxious to sell but have decided to accept orders for them at the rate of \$10.00 per hundred bulblets, (many of them will bloom in 1951). I suggest that you write for catalogs on gladiolus and irises to my old friend Mr. Carl Salbach, 657 Woodmont Avenue, Berkeley 8, California. Mr. Salbach enjoys world recognition for his work with dahlias, glads and irises.

I suggest that you read the very interesting article on Gregor Mendel by Francis Coulter, in the January, 1951 issue of The Flower Grower magazine.

**Yours for better flowers**

**CURTIS REDFERN**